

Message Text

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17

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-03

FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-01 OPIC-02

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-01 SIL-01 OMB-01 IO-03 NSC-07 SS-14

STR-01 CEA-01 INT-01 SCI-03 FEA-01 /081 R

DRAFTED BY ARA-LA/CAR:WBWHEELER:AF

APPROVED BY LA/DP:LEHARRISON

ARA-LA/CAR:JRBURKE

LA/DR:RVENEZIA (DRAFT)

LA/MRSD:JMKRULFELD (DRAFT)

EUR/NE:CLFLOYD

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R 082312Z OCT 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID

SUBJECT:-COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN

1. R.B.M. KING, PERMANENT SECRETARY, U.K., MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT (ODM) CALLED ON AID ACTING ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR LATIN AMERICA LAWRENCE HARRISON ON OCTOBER 1. THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF MR. KING'S VISIT WAS TO SEEK AID'S VIEWS ON PARTICIPATING IN A SYMPOSIUM ON THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN PROPOSED FOR NEXT SPRING UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE BRITISH-NORTH AMERICAN COMMITTEE.

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2. MR. KING, WHO RECENTLY VISITED BARBADOS AND THE ASSOC-

IATED STATES AND IS CURRENTLY IN WASHINGTON FOR THE IBRD ANNUAL MEETING, SAID THAT THE BRITISH-NORTH AMERICAN COMMITTEE WAS INTERESTED IN HOLDING A WEEKEND SYMPOSIUM AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THEIR REPORT, "PROBLEMS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN." KING HAD TALKED TO CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK PRESIDENT DEMAS WHO FAVORED THE IDEA AND HAD ALSO TALKED WITH CANADIAN OFFICIALS WHO INTERPOSED NO OBJECTION. AS KING ENVISIONS IT, THE SYMPOSIUM WOULD HAVE AS PARTICIPANTS PERHAPS TEN OUTSTANDING WEST INDIANS SUCH AS SIR ARTHUR LEWIS, WILLIAM DEMAS, ALISTAR MCINTYRE, AND JOHN COMPTON. IT WOULD ALSO INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE BRITISH-NORTH AMERICAN COMMITTEE AS WELL AS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FROM THE U.K., CANADA, AND UNITED STATES. LEWIS MAY BE ASKED TO CHAIR MEETING WHICH WOULD

PROBABLY BE HELD IN THE UNITED STATES.

3. KING REQUESTED USG PARTICIPATION IN NOVEMBER PLANNING MEETING TO BE HELD IN LONDON AND IN SYMPOSIUM. HARRISON REPLIED THAT WE WOULD LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME ONE FROM OUR EMBASSY IN LONDON ATTENDING THE NOVEMBER MEETING, PROBABLY IN AN OBSERVER STATUS. WE WOULD PREFER TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE OBJECTIVES AND AGENDA OF THE SYMPOSIUM BEFORE REACHING A DECISION ON PARTICIPATION.

4. FYI. IN FURTHER DISCUSSION, KING REPORTED THAT THE ASSOCIATED STATES WERE FACING SERIOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AS A RESULT OF THE SHARP INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF OIL AND OTHER IMPORTED COMMODITIES AS WELL AS A DECLINE IN TOURISM. ALTHOUGH CONDITIONS VARIED FROM ISLAND TO ISLAND, THE U.K. WOULD HAVE TO PROVIDE BUDGETARY ASSISTANCE TO MOST OF THE STATES. HE SAID U.K. ASSISTANCE TO THE AREA WAS CURRENTLY RUNNING AT ABOUT SEVENTEEN MILLION POUNDS AND WOULD BE INCREASED. KING BELIEVED THAT THE CURRENT BUDGETARY SQUEEZE FACING THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE ASSOCIATED STATES WAS A FURTHER COMPELLING REASON FOR THESE GOVERNMENTS TO CONSIDER GREATER USE OF COMMON GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES. HE IMPLIED THAT THE U.K. WOULD BE WILLING TO UNDERWRITE INITIAL FIVE YEARS SUCH COMMON SERVICES IF REQUESTED BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. THIS PROPOSAL HAD NOT AS YET BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

5. ACTION AMEMBASSY LONDON - WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS YOU MIGHT HAVE ON THE FOREGOING AND YOUR REACTION TO THE IDEA OF SENDING AN OBSERVER TO THE PROPOSED NOVEMBER PLANNING SESSION.

6. ACTION AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN - WE WOULD ALSO WELCOME
YOUR COMMENTS.
KISSINGER

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